

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17032

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FOR SHINN FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. PLEASE NOTE MOSCOW 16970, VISA CABLE ON
SOLDATOV, TO REPLACE KOBYSH OF IZVESTIYA. ASSUME THIS
WILL BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL SITUATION WITH
CORRESPONDENTS. (FYI, ACCORDING TO P&C, US OFFICES HERE
WILL BE FULLY STAFFED WHEN NEW UPI MAN TYRELL ARRIVES
SHORTLY. NEXT SCHEDULED TRANSFER WILL BE THAT OF
MARSH CLARK OF TIME MAGAZINE. WE ARE NOT SURE EXACTLY
WHEN MARSH IS SCHEDULED FOR TRANSFER AND HE IS IN
HELSINKI FOR A FEW DAYS SO WE CAN'T CHECK. IF THIS IS
RELEVANT TO YOUR CONSIDERATIONS, YOU CAN PROBABLY FIND
OUT FROM TIME MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT.)

2. REGARDING ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE (STATE 181868,
PARA 3), REGRET THAT WE HAVE NOT KEPT YOU AS AU COURANT
AS WE SHOULD HAVE. WE ARE SO SHORT OF STAFF IN ADMIN
(HULINGS IS ACTING COUNSELOR, ACTING GSO AND ACTING
B&F CHIEF*) IT HAS BEEN ALL WE CAN DO TO KEEP OUR
NOSTRILS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE SURFACE. POWER CONVERSION
STARTED - FINALLY - THIS WEEK. AT FIRST WE WERE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17032 201646Z

GETTING NOT 220/380 BUT 240/420 WHICH CREATED ALL SORTS
OF PROBLEMS - AND A SURGE FROM THAT HIGH LEVEL MAY HAVE
STARTED THE FIRE YESTERDAY. WE'LL BE SENDING A REPORT
ASAP, BUT AT MOMENT WE HAVE NEW POWER IN SOUTH WING,
1ST THROUGH 6TH FLOORS OF CENTRAL WING, AND C&R.
CONVERSION OF NORTH WING SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. AS FOR
7TH TO 10TH FLOORS OF CENTRAL WING (UPSTAIRS OFFICES)

WE ARE STILL WRESTLING WITH PROBLEM CAUSED BY PANEL FIRE, BUT WE HAVE MINIMAL POWER ON MOST OF TODAY (LIGHTS AND TYPEWRITERS - NOTHING HEAVY).

3. HOPE YOU WILL STRONGLY PROTEST ASSAULT ON RAY SMITH TO SOVEMBASSY. TO BEST OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY, THIS IS FIRST TIME SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE ACTUALLY ENTERED EMBASSY PROPERTY TO PERPETRATE SUCH AN OUTRAGE. THEY UNDOUBTEDLY MISTOOK RAY FOR SOVIET CITIZEN, BUT THIS IN NO WAY AMELIORATES THE FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HIS PERSONAL IMMUNITY AND THE EMBASSY'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

4. IN BRIEFING FOLKS, YOU CAN ASSURE THEM THAT RAY WAS GRABBED INSIDE RPT INSIDE THE EMBASSY GATE. HE DID STRUGGLE WITH THE MILITIA MAN IN AN ATTEMPT TO FREE HIMSELF WHILE ON EMBASSY GROUNDS. THE STRUGGLE OCCURRED IN PART ON A SMALL GARDEN PLOT ABOUT 12-15 FEET INSIDE THE NORTH WING GATE AND THE FOOTPRINTS ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE SOFT GROUND. WE PHOTOGRAPHED THE SCENE AFTER THE FACT.

5. IT WOULD NOT BE UNCHARACTERISTIC FOR THE SOVIETS TO CHARGE RAY WITH SOME IMPROPRIETY (SUCH AS ASSAULTING A MILITIAMAN) AND EVEN USE THIS AS A PRETEXT TO PNG HIM (KNOWING OF HIS DUTIES IN FOLLOWING DISSIDENT MOVEMENT). IN PART FOR THIS REASON, WE CONSIDERED IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO GET IN IMMEDIATELY WITH A VERY STRONG CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17032 201646Z

PROTEST.

6. RE MOSCOW 16697, HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT HUGH IS NOW AT (802) 763-7669. YOU NEED ONLY RELAY FIRST PART OF MESSAGE; WE HAVE ANSWER TO QUESTION (B).

7. SINCE WRITING THE ABOVE, HAVE JUST LEARNED OF OUR DIFFICULTY ALL AFTERNOON IN GETTING APPOINTMENT IN MFA USA DIVISION AT ANY LEVEL. (EMBOFF FINALLY DELIVERED PROTEST NOTE TO SECRETARY IN DIVISION JUST BEFORE COB.) THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO PREVENT US FROM PUTTING PROTEST ON RECORD PROMPTLY. HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH KOMPLEKTOV TOMORROW MORNING. WE SHALL REPORT APPOINTMENT DIFFICULTY THRU REGULAR CHANNEL AND ASSUME YOU WILL MAKE APPROPRIATE NOISES TO SOVEMBASSY ABOUT UNWILLINGNESS OF MFA TO CONDUCT BUSINESS. (WE DO NOT RECALL INSTANCE IN RECENT YEARS WHEN WE WERE TOTALLY DENIED URGENT APPOINTMENT. SOMETIMES MFA HAS MADE A MORE JUNIOR OFFICER THAN THE ONE REQUESTED AVAILABLE, BUT THEY NEVER BEFORE MADE PREPOSTEROUS CLAIM THAT ALL THE (THIRTY PLUS) OFFICERS OF THE USA DIVISION WERE OUT DURING A WORKING DAY.)

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